THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) As per the available information, it is not a fact that over one lakh Olive Ridley Turtles died during last ten years along the Orissa coast. In fact, as per the reports available, the annual turtle mortality during the last five years along the Orissa coast has been reduced to between 3000 to 5000. The Government of Orissa has taken a number of steps for turtle conservation. Important measures taken by the State Government are as follows:

(i) There is statutory ban on fishing in the marine Sanctuary area and restricted fishing zone. Strict vigil on all important nesting beaches have been carried out by establishing on shore monitoring and surveillance camps.

(ii) Off-shore patrolling and surveillance camps have been set up near mass breeding and congregation areas in the sea.

(iii) The Indian Coast Guard also patrol in the Marine Sanctuary area. VHF communication with the Coast Guard ship has been arranged.

(iv) Monthly Coordination meetings are regularly held for close rapport amongst the officials of Forest, Fisheries, Police Department and the Coast Guard.

(v) Assistant Conservator of Forests of Coastal Forest Divisions have been declared as authorized officers under the Orissa Marine Fisheries Regulation Act, 1981 to check illegal fishing vessels entering in to the prohibited fishing zones in the Orissa coastal waters.

(vi) Hoardings have been installed at important fishing bases for public awareness. Non Government Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Fishing Communities, and coastal inhabitants of Orissa have also been involved in conservation efforts.

(vii) A Central Monitoring unit in the office of the Chief Wildlife Warden is functioning with the responsibility of monitoring the operation carried out in each camp on a day to day basis.

(viii) A High level Committee has been constituted by the State Government under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Orissa for reviewing the sea turtle protection activities from time to time for coordinating among various departments and the Indian Coast Guards.

(c) and (d) Greenpeace has only opined for inclusion of independent observers in partnership with Forest Department in the process of maintaining an annual mortality census so as to avoid different mortality figures by the Forest Department and Non Government Organizations. The State Forest Department has already been associating Non Governmental Organizations in turtle conservation activities including counting of turtle mortality.

Air pollution

437. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that because of tiny airborne particles released by the industries, India is getting Five per cent less sunlight than it did twenty years ago because of which the country is getting less rainfall as well as reduced agriculture productivity and green cover;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has set any norms for the industry to reduce air pollution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) levels in ambient air are showing an increasing trend in many areas in the country due to rise in population, increasing number of vehicles and DG sets, rapid urbanization, industrialisation, construction activities and agricultural practices.

However, there is no conclusive evidence at this point of time that there is reduction in sunlight because of these tiny particles resulting in less rainfall as well as reduced agriculture productivity and green cover.

(c) and (d) Emission standards for various categories of industry including 17 categories of highly polluting industries and DG sets have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 to reduce air pollution.

Pakistan's hand in 26/11 attack

438. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been established Pakistan's hand in 26/11 Bombay terrorist attack and provided full facts of the total involvement of Pakistan;

(b) whether Pakistan has pointed out that it would go into the cases but not hand over the culprit;

(c) whether Extradition Act, 1972 of Pakistan specifies that Islamabad can hand over anyone accused of terrorism or any other criminal act in a foreign country to Government even if there is no extradition treaty; and

(d) the latest position and stands taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) On 05 January 2009, the Government of Pakistan was given material linking the Mumbai attack of 26-29 November, 2008 to elements in Pakistan. In their response on 12th February 2009, the Pakistan authorities have confirmed that elements in Pakistan were involved in the terrorist attacks on Mumbai. Government of Pakistan has conveyed that in order to support further investigation/prosecution being initiated in Pakistan, additional material/evidence be made available to it.